

FORM 19

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COUNTRY Germany (Soviet Zone)

REPORT NO.

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TOPIC Military Information from the East Prussian Peninsula

EVALUATION 25X1

PLACE OBTAINED

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DATE OF CONTENT Summer of 1950

DATE OBTAINED DATE PREPARED 1 December 1950

REFERENCES 25X1

PAGES 2 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)

REMARKS

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1. Dismantled in 1945, the AAA range was subsequently cleared of the civilian population and reconstructed on Soviet orders. The 1950 training period at the range began in April. Troops who went to the range by rail were unloaded at the railroad stations of Neubukow, Kroepelin and Bad Doberan. They brought billeting equipment with them. A Soviet transport control office was located in Neubukow.
2. During their stay at the AAA range all Soviet military personnel who moved outside the restricted peninsula were closely checked by military police. The issuance of alcoholic beverages to Soviet personnel was strictly prohibited. Officers complied with this prohibition order as long as a general, who allegedly came from Schwerin, was staying at the range. During the summer training period the bakery supplying the troops allegedly used ten tons of flour daily for 21 units.
3. The troops at the AAA range held firing practice with light and heavy batteries. During one firing exercise of heavy AA guns, apparently 10 or 12, it was observed that adjustment fire of one or two shells was followed by volley fire for effect. The points of burst were at altitudes of 3,000 to 5,000 meters. [redacted] the firing as being well-spread over the target. Direct hits were scored after two or three volleys.
4. Light AA guns fired at distances of 500 to 2,000 meters and at altitudes of 1,000 to 2,000 meters. The accuracy of fire could not be determined. No tracer ammunition was observed. The firing was directed against sleeve targets towed by twin-engine, low-wing monoplanes.
5. Questioned about ballistic directors, [redacted] "the Soviets had sighting equipment resembling the German devices, namely a long transversal tube". The Soviets also had equipment vans resembling the German radio trucks.

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6. The last unit which had practiced at the range left on 30 September, leaving only a small number of guard and administrative troops at the range. Soviet offices in Rerik included an AAA range headquarters, an airfield headquarters, a supply headquarters and a military post headquarters. *

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- * Comment. The report confirms previous data on the Soviet AAA range on the Mustrow peninsula. It also confirms that, upon completion of the firing exercises, the last units left the range in late September 1950, returning to their home stations. The description of firing practice in the present report is credible, but does not provide any extraordinary information.

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